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三十二月

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HONGKONG, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 1884.

二月九日

星期二

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

NOTES.

ARRIVALS.
February 18. MARY LOUISE, German bark, 424 ft. A. Erickson, Rajang 13th January, Timber—CHINAMAN.

February 18. BEMULTRA, British steamer, 1,388. W. H. Lunt, Singapore 10th Feb., General—C. M. S. N. Co.

February 18. LARIBER, British str., 1,691. B. Scale, Liverpool 30th Dec., via Singapore 13th Feb., General—BUTTERFIELD & SWINEY.

February 18. VILLARS, French corvette, from a cruise.

CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE.
February 18th.

Matson, German str., for Holloway.
Poblen, British str., for Swallow.
Pomona, British str., for Amy.
Rosetta, British str., for Amy.
Rambler, French brig, for Illois.

DEPARTURES.

February 18. WOLF, German gunboat, for Canton.

February 18. PING-ON, British steamer, for Holloway.

February 18. FORKIN, British steamer, for Swallow.

February 18. JEDDAH, British steamer, for Amy.

February 18. ESMERALDA, British steamer, for Amy.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.
Per Bencultha, str., from Singapore—564 Chinese.

Per Kinsu, str., from Yokohama—For London—Mr. and Mrs. A. Saunders, and Mr. B. W. Graham.

DEPARTED.
Per Nansen, str., for Amy—Mr. A. Way, Luton, str., from Liverpool, &c. 100 Chinese.

Per Melosa, str., for Shanghai—From Hong Kong—Capt. and Mrs. J. P. McEvil, Inspector Fleming and Forces, Lieut. F. M. Walker, R.N. TO DEPART.

Per P. O. str. Assam, from Hong Kong—For London—Lieut. G. W. Ballistone, R.N., and Mr. K. Mattiatt.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Lerter* reports left Liverpool on the 30th Dec., with Singapore on the 15th inst., and had light Northerly breeze and fine weather.

SHANGHAI SHIPPING.

February—ARRIVALS.
4. Pochi, British str., put back.

5. King-tee, Chinese str., from Ningpo.

6. W. C. de Vries, British str., from Hankow.

7. Tuan, British str., from Hankow.

8. King Wo, British str., from Hankow.

9. King-tee, Chinese str., from Hankow.

10. King-tee, Chinese str., from Ningpo.

11. King-tee, Chinese str., from Ningpo.

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136. King-tee, Chinese

private comfort in the society in which I have lived for some years past." "But," he goes on to say, "while I have endeavoured to fulfil my duty to Her Majesty's Government in the public course of报复 I have pursued, it did not consist with my station to execute measures of general and indiscriminating violence against Her Majesty's officers and subjects; and to a mode of working out objects, right or wrong, which set all the obligations of moderation and justice at defiance. I have resisted the Commissioner's actual demands because they were utterly unjust; and because their concession would have involved the abandonment of principles, which can never be yielded by a British officer, with any hope of maintaining a safe or honourable footing for British trade in this country." Such was the temper of the British representative at that time. Had the Chinese Government recognised legitimate trade and endeavoured honestly to prevent the smuggling or opium the British Government would have offered no opposition. But that as now Chinese officials were corrupt, and while opium was nominally contraband, those whose duty it was to prevent its being smuggled into the country were quite willing to accept payment of dues upon it. The Chinese Government is alone responsible for the growth of the trade. The British Government never in any way countenanced smuggling, or on the contrary, by their representations endeavoured to repress it. The Chinese, however, were either unable or unwilling to adopt such measures as would give effect to the British Representative's attempts in this direction, and so the trade grew. The Kwangtung Government, in the meantime, heaped insults, and injuries on the Europeans, making no discrimination between those engaged in legitimate and those engaged in illegitimate trade. British officials were treated with contumely and scorn, and after a long period of forbearance on the part of the British, hostilities were commenced, not for the purpose of forcing opium in the Chinese, but to compel fair and honourable treatment of British subjects and due respect to the British Representative. Provost Morris says that after the war was over "our plenipotentiary, Sir Harry Pottinger, tried to get the opium traffic repressed," but this was simply in order to put an end to the state of lawlessness which had prevailed and to bring the trade under control, seeing that the Chinese either could not or did not wish to suppress it. Had the Chinese authorities adopted effective and reasonable measures to that they would not have been opposed by the British Government.

CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

We have often wondered how it is that the Peking Government have shown so slight an appreciation of the value of an alliance with Great Britain. Most Chinese officials have exhibited little desire to cultivate the friendship of England, and Chinese policy of late years has inclined them far more towards other Western Powers. This, too, in spite of the fact that Sir Thomas Wade, acting under instructions from the Foreign Office, showed a decidedly conciliatory front. But no; his very forbearance was misconstrued into weakness or timidity, and in 1876 this misconception brought the two countries to the very verge of war. It was not until the difficulty with Russia over the Kuldja question arose, which led to the repudiation by China of the treaty concluded by Cixi with M. de Gras, that the Peking mandarins began fully to recognise that they had an enemy more to be feared than England. The lessons which the forbearance of England in restoring Chusan and merely retaining the barren rocky islet of Hongkong as a naval and commercial station in these waters should have taught the Chinese rulers appear to have been quite lost upon them. One would imagine that they thought the only reason the British and French troops did not seize two or three of the eighteen provinces was a fear of being driven out. Yet the Allies had, during the last war, the Chinese empire practically at their feet. Had England elected to take Kwangtung and France Fokien, no one could or would have said them nay. That they did not do so was the result of a moderation which the Peking Government might vainly expect from Russia. Yet even now the Chinese officials look with unreasonable distrust upon England, unable to comprehend, apparently, any motive but a selfish one in connection with her policy, quite incapable of recognising the fact that she neither covets nor would accept a squatter in Chinese territory unless compelled to take it in self-defence or as guarantee for payment of an indemnity. Notwithstanding the recent evidences of the indisposition of the English to acquire more territory in the retirement from Afghanistan, the abandonment of the Transvaal, the refusal to annex New Guinea and the New Hebrides—although earnestly requested to do by the united voices of the great Australasian Colonies—and the proposed early withdrawal of the British army of occupation from Egypt, the Chinese statesmen on a rule still fail to understand the importance of cultivating the friendship and seeking the alliance of Great Britain. None are so blind as those who will not see, and it is probable that there is a good deal of intentional dulness of perception at Peking. At all events, it is gratifying to find at least one intelligent Chinese official who is far-sighted enough to see that China's greatest danger is to be apprehended from Russia, and that the best way to prevent it is to secure an alliance with England. In his Diary, lately published, the Marquis Tuxford refers to the protection of Turkey by England, and sensibly remarks that "England, whilst ostensibly protecting Turkey, in reality acts as the safeguard of the whole of Europe, and it is England's intervention that alone prevents Russia from carrying out her designs upon Turkey." At the Berlin Congress the representatives of the other Powers maintained an attitude of indecision and indifference, evidently under the impression that the protection of Turkey and the defence of India were matters which concerned England only. This was in a sense true enough; but it ignored the fact that India's danger was England's danger, and that danger to England meant danger to the whole of Europe." The Chinese Ambassador then proceeds to draw a parallel between the position of Turkey and Europe and that of China, as exposed to Russian aggression, as follows:—"Nor is it only Europe which is so affected; China is exposed to equal danger. If China could patch up the roof before the rain comes on, and secure the friendship of England, she would, with England on her side, have nothing to fear from the aggressive designs of Russia. Now, Chinese Imperialists and I are close to India, and the success of Russian attempts to cover China in that quarter would be fraught with trouble to England. It may, therefore, be possible at some future date to gain England's assistance in effecting an amicable arrangement. If England puts forth all her might to protect Turkey, it is improbable that she would make some slight effort to aid China. To this some may object, and say that Russia and England are alike in their rapacious tendencies, and that there is no likelihood of gaining England to our side. This argument ignores the fact that England, though still to outward appearance powerful, is gradually losing the substance of her strength, and that her present policy is directed towards maintaining her high position by peaceful measures. She is far different now from what she was in 1860."

Kwangtung's reign, and there would be no difficulty in coming to an understanding with her." A Chinese may be pardoned for thinking the English less powerful now than formerly, while we to him "representatives of the world" as to him "representatives of a nation that has been dragged into a policy of annexation through her mission as a pioneer of commerce." This, however, by the way, is the fact, remaining that the Marquis Tuxford, accredited as Chinese Ambassador to Great Britain, France, and Russia, who was one who negotiated the Treaty of St. Petersburgh of February, 1851, who presided over the conclusion of Kuldja, and who knows something of Russian politics and policy, advocates that British aid and support should be sought by the Chinese Government in their dealings with Russia. The Marquis sees clearly that the common danger to India and to China alike is the rapacity of their Muscovite neighbour, whose recent aggression is an ever present menace to both. It is this that persuades the Peking rulers that instead of mistreating France and Japan, they should keep a watchful eye on Russia, and prepare to resist any attempt that may be made to wrest from the control of the Emperor Kwangtung either Manchuria, Mongolia, or Turkestan, he will not have laboured in vain. Still better will it be if he can impress a little of his own confidence in English bonds to his suspicious and frowns brother mandarins.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT BOWING-TON, HONGKONG.

After a good long interval, for the cold season, of unusually frequent or severe fire, the community of Bowring-Ton, the most populous of the 1000 islands, by the breaking of the fire-bell that the nearly elemental conflagration had broken out of control. At about ten minutes after nine the fire was first heard, and at that time people living in the centre of the town could see a dense black column of smoke darkening the sky to the eastward. There was at once a hasty exodus in that direction, and soon a stream of fire engines, jingling and shouting, came from the opposite side of the island. The fire department appeared to be about as well filled as any section, and there were some very fine engines. Some of the vegetable competitors were extremely good, but other classes were not. The stands were covered in with piles of brushwood, the price exhibits being very hasty. As on most previous occasions, fire did not make much of a show, and Mr. D. Nowroozi had by far the best display. 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